

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating a boot source in a computer system having a processor comprising ~~the steps of:~~

(a)——determining the boot source used by the processor each time the computer system boots, the boot source determining step furthering including determining a source of a number of instructions initially executed as the boot source; and

(b)——allowing the boot source to be specified once as a known boot source.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the known boot source ensuring step ~~(b)~~ further includes ~~the step of:~~

(b1)——specifying that the known boot source to be a FLASH boot source.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the specifying step ~~(b1)~~ further includes ~~the step of:~~

(b1i)——writing an identity of the FLASH boot source in a write-once register which identifies the boot source for future boots.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step ~~(a)~~ further includes ~~the step of:~~

(a1)—writing an identity of the boot source in a register each time the computer system boots.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

(e)—checking the boot source determined in step (a) to ensure that the boot source is the known boot source.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for evaluating a boot source in a computer system having a processor coupled with a boot source, the system comprising:

a first register for storing an identity of the boot source used by the processor each time the computer system boots, the identity being determined by determining a source of a number of instructions initially executed as the boot source; and

a second register for allowing the boot source to be specified once as a known boot source.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the computer system includes a bridge coupling the processor with the boot source and wherein the first register and the second register are located in the bridge.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the bridge is a south bridge.

9. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the known boot source is written only once to the second register.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the known boot source is a FLASH boot source.

11. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the identity of the boot source is written to the first register each time the computer system boots.

12. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the processor is capable of checking the boot source stored in the first register to ensure that the boot source is the known boot source.